

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After discussing the findings and discussion, this chapter presents the conclusions of the research which aimed at investigating the ways the main character's developed and identifying the contributions of focalization to the main character's development in R.J. Palacio's *Wonder*. It also provides suggestions for readers who might be interested in the same issues discussed in the research.

5.1 Conclusions

Due to examining research based on a novel, the writer collected data in the form of textual evidences, in particular, dialogues, conversations, actions, feelings and thoughts to analyze a child character's development in contemporary realistic fiction.

In line with the first purpose of the research which is to unearth the ways the main character is developed, it can be concluded that the main character developed through two ways: four narrative events and the characters' focalization. Since narrative events refer to the transition from one condition to another that are experienced by characters, it leads to the process of the main character's development. In the beginning, August suffers from low self-esteem. As the narrative events go on, he changes to be more confident and even honourable in other people's eyes. In this way, August's character undergoes the betterment. The betterment is equally apparent from the characters' focalization. Since focalization refers to the character's personal views, it helps explicating the main character's characterisation and ascribes information about key events that stimulate August to develop.

In regard with the second purpose of the research which is to find out the contributions of focalization to the main character's development, based on the findings, the six characters' focalization gives a clear picture about August's life through different personal perceptions. Cognitive, perceptual and emotional aspects in focalization provide generous views towards August's dynamic

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changes. Since Bal's notions on focalization concerns relational effects between the agents who focalize and the focalized objects, the relationships between August and other characters essentially influence his development. As a result, they give a more comprehensive portrayal of August's character development objectively.

It becomes apparent that the character development of a deformed child teaches children to value their life more and be tolerant with any child whose life is not as lucky as theirs. The fact that different views from people always interfere especially when children have particular problems of life, helps children accept others' opinions, and strengthens their tolerance in dealing with different types of people. At this point, the novel implies that a child's character development is influenced by many factors: home and school, the relationships between family and peers, and other people's opinions or judgments. That is to say, the character's development in R.J. Palacio's *Wonder* contributes to children's betterment.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the writer's experiences after conducting the research, here are some suggestions for future research/researchers:

1. It is recommended for the researchers who intend to conduct research concerning children literature to explore other topics related to characters, but in other genre or form. For instances, in picture books, children's fantasy fiction, etc, since the research about children's literature are still few in English Department.
2. With respect to the issue regarding character development, the next researchers could make comparative analysis of the main character's development in other form of literature, for instance, between novel and movie. It may focus on either children's or adult's characters.
3. Applying narrative theory in children's literature is quite hard to apply, since narratology seems inadequate with specialized terms and complex concepts. Therefore, intensive reading and practicing to apply the theories into short

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stories' or poems' analyses before examining broader objects are really needed to improve the analytical skills.

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